

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to urge you to consider providing, on a case-by-case basis, humanitarian parole for migrants who entered the United States during the implementation of Title 42, which lasted from March 2020 to May 2023. Due to significant immigration court backlogs, many asylum seekers will not have the opportunity to apply for asylum for a significant period of time. As a result, through no fault of their own, they remain ineligible to work, making them unable to provide for their families and contribute to our economy. Many cities and states across America are working to welcome asylum seekers and doing everything in their power to provide support to them. Still, local governments need more help and resources to efficiently meet the needs of people coming into our communities, as well as the needs of employers desperately seeking workers. The use of humanitarian parole would expedite access to employment authorization documents (EAD). In addition, setting up welcome centers and mobilizing additional USCIS and DHS personnel to cities and states processing higher numbers of migrants would greatly help to ensure migrants are aware of the legal pathways available to them.

The parole authority under the *Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)* allows individuals to enter the United States for a period of time for urgent humanitarian reasons. It has been used extensively by both Democratic and Republican administrations since the Eisenhower administration. The parole process would allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to thoroughly vet each parolee. By granting parole to asylum seekers, we can prioritize their safety and well-being while ensuring they comply with any requirements set forth by DHS.

Under Section 208(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), asylum seekers are not permitted to obtain work authorization until their asylum applications have been pending for at least 180 days. Due to the lengthy immigration court backlogs, many individuals are unable to even apply for asylum to commence the 180 days wait period required by statute. This keeps individuals who want to work from doing so and forces them to rely on communities, local governments, and non-profits for housing, food, and health services. Furthermore, there are long delays in processing times for employment authorization. By assessing eligibility for humanitarian parole, approved applicants would obtain faster access to employment authorization documents (EADs), easing the burden on communities, NGOs, and local

governments and allowing individuals to sustain themselves and their families in a time of record low unemployment where there are significant job openings. We are experiencing a period where many businesses are suffering from labor shortages, and by expediting this process, we can also provide a boost to local and small businesses.

Over the past year, cities like New York have welcomed thousands of migrants as they arrived. It is places like New York City that would have the highest potential number of applicants for parole and EADs. In addition, detailing additional immigration judges to cities with increased migrant populations would greatly help to address the asylum backlog.

We strongly urge the administration to implement the two steps mentioned above to start mitigating this crisis:

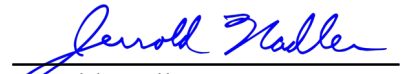
1. **Assess eligibility of migrants who entered the country during implementation of Title 42 – which lasted from March 2020 to May 2023 – for parole to expedite processing of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs).**
2. **Mobilize USCIS personnel and Immigration Judges to timely adjudicate parole and work authorization applications from cities and states with higher migrant numbers.**

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, and we look forward to your response.

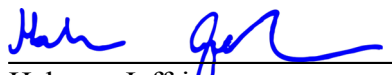
Sincerely,



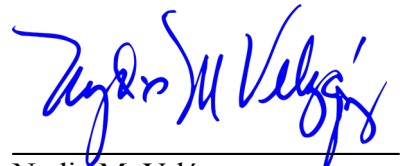
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Member of Congress



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